

Grant Seeker:
Cuse Pit Crew
Syracuse, New York

Patricia Rosetti
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Human-Animal Connection Project

Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation

Bearemy's Kennel Pals

The Cuse Pit Crew

Grant Writing Committee

P.O. Box 2833

Syracuse, NY 13220

March 28, 2012

Build-A-Bear Foundation

Grants For Pawsome Causes

1954 Innerbelt Business Center Drive

Saint Louis, MO 63114

Dear Build-A-Bear Foundation:

The Cuse Pit Crew is interested in applying for your foundation's domestic pets grant. Our organization is centered in the Syracuse, NY community. Our goals include humane education and proper animal training.

We believe our goals would be supported by the Build-A-Bear Foundation because of the establishment's history of funding start-up costs for animal welfare organizations that support community humane education initiatives. We are asking for \$1500 to fund our humane education and training programs, which falls within your average grant allocations. To further explain our need of the grant, we have enclosed our proposed budget. The foundation also strives to fund projects in areas where Build-A-Bear Workshops are located. Carousel Center, in Syracuse, New York, has a Build-A-Bear Workshop located within its shopping community.

The Build-A-Bear Foundation seeks grantees that are passionate about bettering the lives of animals. The Cuse Pit Crew shares this goal by providing the community with humane education and animal welfare services. Overpopulation is an immediate problem within the Syracuse community. Through proper humane education, euthanasia rates can be drastically reduced. Also, dog fighting is an alarming issue within this area. Animal welfare services help cut down on the number of fights, but more funding is needed to eliminate this problem in its entirety.

The Cuse Pit Crew focuses on three aspects to enrich pit bull's lives. First, the organization provides free training to Syracuse residents who own pit bulls. Though the service is free, the organization still needs to pay the trainer. Next, the Cuse Pit Crew offers free humane education at schools, community centers, and other public service agencies. Finally, the organization offers animal welfare services when funding is available. We will be measuring the results of these programs by partnering with local law enforcement and animal welfare agencies and tracking the statistics of animal spaying/neutering and the number of dog attacks in the community.

The Build-A-Bear Foundation, reflecting the same objectives as The Cuse Pit Crew, has the ability to improve the animal welfare, humane education, and dog training within the Syracuse community. In order to make such improvements, The Cuse Pit Crew will interact with the community centers, schools, and public service agencies in order to accomplish the goals of the organization.

The Cuse Pit Crew proposes The Build-A-Bear Foundation assists in the funds for this crucial project. In order for The Cuse Pit Crew to accomplish the listed objectives, funds are necessary for animal welfare services, and to provide a trainer. The Syracuse community would be greatly improved if these measures were taken.

Sincerely,

Megan Fitzpatrick

Tricia Rosetti

Amber Mitchell

Encl: Proposed Budget

Mission Statement and History:

The Cuse Pit Crew's mission is to "Refuel the Human-Animal Connection" in the City of Syracuse through community outreach and educational programming, while advocating for pit bulls and other misunderstood breeds.

In 2006, The Humane Society of the United States began the End Dogfighting program in Chicago, which aims to prevent dog fighting through various means, including dog-training classes. After researching the unique ways that the organization was utilizing community resources to strengthen the link between at-risk individuals and dogs that were known to be victims of abuse, the members now known as the Cuse Pit Crew reached out to the founders of this to learn more information. The members of the Humane Society of the United States provided the Cuse Pit Crew with invaluable resources to begin a similar program. The program has been so ingenuitive that similar program models that have its basis in Chicago have branched out to Atlanta and just recently began in Philadelphia in 2010. In the fall of 2011, Syracuse established its own branch of this program called Cuse Pit Crew. We are modeling our program after the successful campaign that the Humane Society of the United States has implemented.

Disturbing statistics have furthered our overwhelming need to try to solve the animal abuse problem. Though true statistics of dog fighting cannot be measured, the ASPCA contend that tens of thousands of people are involved in this illegal practice in the United States. Law enforcement believes that dog fighting is on the rise, especially in urban areas. Referring to Figure 1, animal abuse is a widespread issue within the state of New York, and as one can see on the map, an issue in the Syracuse area. As evident from extremely concerning data collected from *Animal People*, it is proven that Pit Bulls are in dire need of protection. The national shelter intake is made up of 33% Pit Bulls on average. In larger cities this percentage rises as high as 65%. Not only are Pit Bulls sheltered on a daily basis, but also about 75% of shelters euthanize Pit Bulls immediately upon arrival. Studies show that about 1 million Pit Bulls are euthanized per year, estimating about 2,800 a day. As demonstrated below in Figure 2, there is a rising issue with animal abuse. As of April 27, 2012 it is calculated that 63% of caregivers in the United States are abusive to their animal. This leaves only 37% of caregivers that are not alleged abusers.

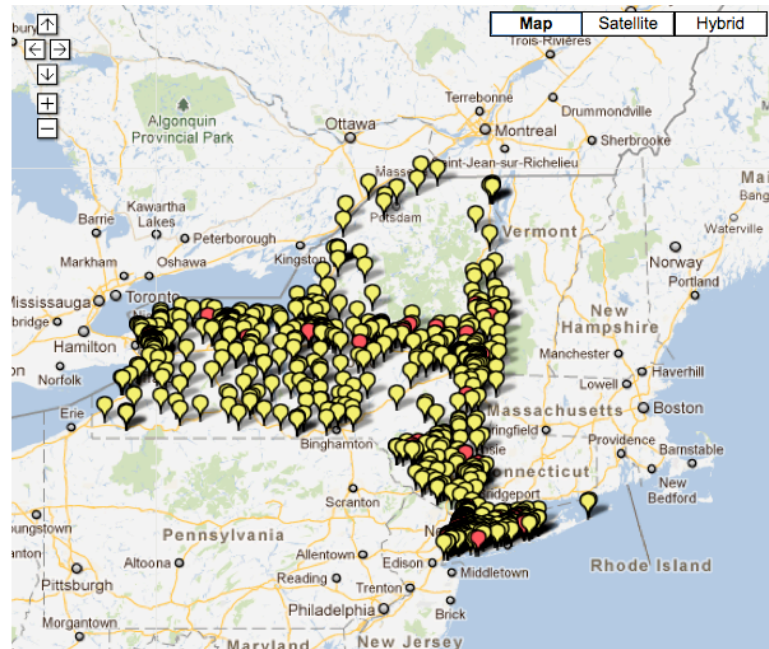


Fig. 1

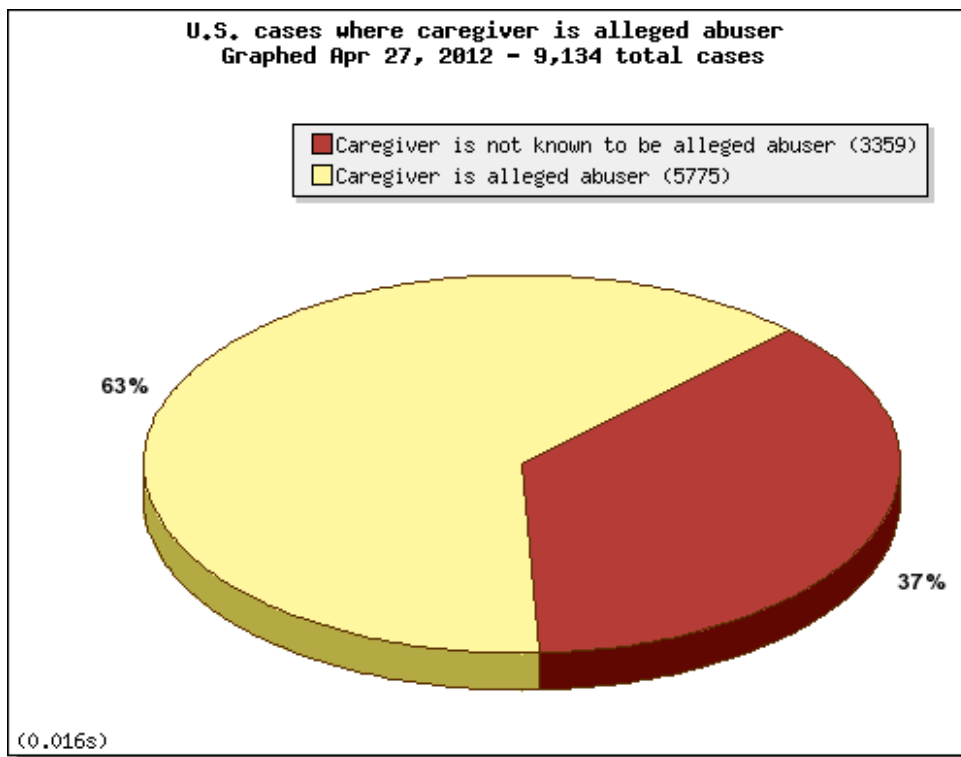


Fig. 2

Program Purpose:

Syracuse, a city with a history of dog fighting and animal mistreatment, is the focus of our efforts to end the stigmatization of pit bull breeds. Through a multi-tiered approach, the organization will reach out to the Syracuse community to strengthen the bond between pit bull breeds and their owners. The three main strategies of our organization include providing free dog training to Syracuse city residents, offering free humane education at community centers, schools, and public service agencies, and providing other animal welfare services and resources when available.

Partnerships with local dog training facilities will help us provide community pet owners with free training sessions. These sessions will teach owners the responsible ways to raise dogs, as well as building a stronger relationship between owner and pet. The ultimate goal of these training sessions is to see a decrease of pit bull breeds surrendered to local shelters or abandoned due to behavioral issues.

Humane education will be another important aspect of our program. We will enrich the knowledge of community members and correct the misinformation about the pit bulls and similar misunderstood breeds. This education will be available throughout the community, through educational sessions and free literature. The hope of providing this humane education is to better the welfare of dogs, through proper ownership and a decrease in dog fighting. Correcting the stigmatized view of pit bull breeds will also help us achieve our goal of seeing an increase in the number of pit bulls that are adopted, and not subjected to euthanasia.

Our partnerships with other animal welfare agencies, such as Recycle-A-Bull and the local ASPCAs, will help the organization provide access to other welfare services and resources to local pet owners. Additionally, we will administer a program participant satisfaction survey to gather valuable feedback about the usefulness of our project.

Needs Statement:

Within the Syracuse Community, there are crucial social needs that must be addressed. Over time, the pit bull breed has established a reputation of being extremely aggressive animals. Due to the common misunderstanding of the breed, the animals have become neglected. In result to this, adoption rates are low, euthanasia rates are rising, and dog fighting has become an ongoing issue.

In order to improve these negative aspects to the Syracuse environment, specific measures must be taken. The Cuse Pit Crew is willing, and hoping, to make a difference in the community and welfare of the animals. To eradicate the stereotype of the aggressive pit bull, the Cuse Pit Crew plans to educate the Syracuse area. The goal is to educate the pet owners within the community on the importance of getting their pets fixed, in hopes to reduce unwanted animals and to reduce aggression. This is a necessary action due to the constant overpopulation of the breed. The organization would also like to be able to provide training to pet owners on

proper ways to treat their pets, which will reduce the amount of pit bulls involved in dog fighting and human attacks. Due to the misjudgment of the breed, there are dogs mistreated everyday due to poor training. Lastly, the organization will provide other various animal welfare services to the community whenever necessary.

Such unfortunate circumstances are repairable, however. If the Cuse Pit Crew can promote the humane education, dog training, and animal welfare throughout the community, the people and the animals will be in a much safer environment. Multiple needs will be resolved through the work of the Cuse Pit Crew.

Budget:

Personnel

Trainers

A large part of our organization is teaching Syracuse community members the proper way to train their pets. For our training events we will be paying our dog trainers \$200 per event. We will be hosting 6 training seminars throughout the year, with a final cost of \$ 1,200.

Fringe Benefits

Fringe Benefits are 25% of the personnel costs.

Non-Personnel

Promotional Supplies

The total cost for promotional supplies is \$674.95. This includes \$22.95 for 500 business cards. In addition, this includes a cost of \$600 for promotional pens and \$52 for a vinyl banner used at Cuse Pit Crew events.

Educational Supplies

The total cost necessary to obtain the correct education supplies is \$448.95. This total includes brochures, which cost \$159 for 2,000 copies. A cost of \$289.95 is needed to purchase 3,000 flyers.

Insurance

The cost of liability for the Cuse Pit Crew is approximately \$300/month x 12 months through companies specializing in policies for non-profit organizations. This will financially protect the group from any unexpected occurrences.

Pet Supplies

The total cost of pet supplies is \$163.11. This includes 12 collars at \$3.29 each, 12 leashes at \$4.89 a piece, and 5 muzzles at \$3.00 each. These are necessary for training, transporting, and handling the dogs. In addition, dog treats will be given out at events totaling \$49.95.

Rentals

We will need funds for renting spaces for our community programs and seminars. The hourly rate of renting a community center room is \$30/hr. This is a necessary fund because we will use these rooms to reach out to the community and spread knowledge about the importance of animal welfare. The total cost of renting spaces for 6 (2-hour) seminars would be \$360.

Event Booth Rentals

To reach out to the community, we will also be participating in Syracuse area events. We will need to rent booths for the events to hold our informational and promotional literature and to serve as a rallying point for our volunteers to speak with event goers. The cost of booth rentals per year will be \$1,100.

Cuse Pit Crew Proposed 2012 Budget April 12, 2012

Item Needed	Quantity	Price	Total
Liability Insurance	12 Months	\$300.00/ Month	\$3,600.00
Event Booth	2 Community Events	\$550.00	\$1,100.00
Trainer Fee	6 Training Events	\$200.00	\$1,200.00
Space Rentals	6- 2 Hour Seminars	\$30.00/ Hour	\$360.00
Business Cards	500	\$22.95	\$22.95
Vinyl Banner	1	\$52.00	\$52.00
Brochures	2,000	\$159.00	\$159.00
Flyers	3,000	\$289.95	\$289.95
Promotional Pens	4,000	\$75.00/500 Pens	\$600.00
Collars	12	\$3.29	\$39.48
Leashes	12	\$4.89	\$58.68
Muzzle	5	\$3.00	\$15.00
Fringe Benefits	1	25% of Personnel	\$300
Dog Treats	5 Boxes	\$9.99	\$49.95
Total			\$7847.01

Though our efforts will cost \$7847.01, we are requesting \$1500 from the Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation for start up costs.